Irish Folklore
Commission
University College
Dublin
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COIMISIÚN BÉALOIDEASA ÉIREANN
Coláiste Ollscoile
Baile Átha Cliath

29th May, 1957

Mr. J. J. Donlan
Drexel Insifute of Technology
Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir,

It is a pleasure and a distinction to have a request for information from your famous Institute.

There seems to be some slight discrepancy in your colleague's dates and a confusion to two groups of settlers in Ireland.

The Palatines did not come to Ireland until 1709 and settled, not in Donegal, but in Co. Limerick, in the southern part of the country! What is perhaps the best account of these is contained in the Tour of an English traveller, Arthur Young, who visited Adare, Co. Limerick, in 1776, and wrote as follows of the Palatines there:

"Palatines were settled here by the late Lord Southwell about seventy years ago."

They preserve some of their German customs: sleep between two beds. They appoint a burgomaster, to whom they appeal in case of all disputes; and they yet preserve their language, but that is declining. They are very industrious, and in consequence are much happier and better fed, clothed, and lodged than the Irish peasants. We must not, however, conclude from hence that all is owing to this; their being independent farmers, and having leases, are circumstances which will create industry. Their crops are much better than those of their neighbors. There are three villages of them, about seventy families in all. For some time after they settled they fed upon sour-crout, but by degrees left it off, and took to potatoes; but now subsist upon them and butter and milk, but with a great deal of